

Hart Pillow
1501 Moreland Ave.
Durham, NC 27707
February 13, 2006

Dear Members of the Federal Communications Commission,

I am aware that our local public access television services are in danger of being changed or essentially removed. Let me tell you why I think we need to continue public access, educational access, and government access services.

Perhaps you had an experience as I did growing up with “community” all around me—my large family, my neighbors, my friends, my school, my church, and just ordinary people in our town. Times have changed, and that experience of feeling a part of “community” for my son and me is harder to find.

We need to keep PEG access funded through these franchise fees. Any company using the public land belonging to cities and towns needs to pay that city or town directly the franchise fees—whether it is a cable company or a “telephone” company. Towns and cities need to maintain the local control so that the services will continue to benefit them. Towns and cities need to have cable companies/telephone companies be responsive to them. Without local control, towns and cities lose the ability to effectively build “community” from these locally produced programs. Who cares about us towns at the state level? Who cares about us at the Federal level? Our towns are in the best position to be responsive to citizens and the PEG access issues that arise.

For the sake of community building, I ask you to consider keeping local municipalities as direct recipients of franchise fees for use of public land.

Sincerely,

Hart Pillow

